Crest and Chasm of the Continent

CREST AND CHASM
OF THE CONTINENT

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DESCRIPTIVE TITLES WRITTEN BY DR. J. DOUGLAS CRISP

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DESCRIPTIONS OF VIEWS

By DR J DOUGLAS CRISP

PIKE'S PEAK FROM THE VISTA.

Hooded in the snows of ages, clean-cut as a cameo in the transparent ether, or rearing its majestic head far into the swirling clouds, Pike's Peak is one of the most awe-inspiring sights in Colorado. In the picture the artist is in the valley, where the peaceful, vernal surroundings contrast inspiringly with the grandeur of the mountain, miles in the distance.

A VIEW FROM ST. PETER'S DOME.

The view in this picture is from the heights into the valley. Over to the left is the winding pathway of the Cripple Creek Short Line, hugging the rugged cliffs, aerial here, buried there, with beautiful Colorado Springs a mere speck in the distance. On the Short Line so noted for its unsurpassed scenery, there is no more magnificent view than the one presented.

SUMMIT OF PIKE'S PEAK.

From mid-summer to a howling snow storm or a winter's scene in an hour, is a trip on the Cog Road from Manitou to the top of Pike's Peak. Here, at an altitude of 14,147 feet is the Observatory and United States Signal Station, one of the highest in the world. Far over the back-bone of the mighty Rockies to the West, and for two hundred miles to the North and East, the eye may sweep the plains. A sunrise from this spot is the memory of a lifetime.

MANITOU, COLORADO.

Beautiful Manitou, with its magic springs of health-giving waters, nestling amid the rocks and trees at the foot of Pike's Peak, is known the world over. It is here the Cog Road begins that ends in snow on the previous page. It is here that breakfast is eaten under an electric fan, with luncheon on the Peak at zero.

GATEWAY TO THE GARDEN OF THE GODS.

The Ancients had their legends of the Gods, mortal in form and passion; we have them fashioned in stone, collosal, impassive. Nothing more truly sublime was ever created by nature. The Gateway only is given in the picture. The Garden is reached by carriage from Manitou or Colorado Springs in a picturesque drive of thirty minutes.

THE BALANCED ROCK.

Nothing in the enchanted precincts of the Garden of the Gods attracts more attention than the Balanced Rock. Leaning far over, as does the famous Tower of Pisa, yet it has miraculously through the ages maintained its precarious equilibrium. It is 71 feet high, as can be seen by the trees that grow near it, and has been "snapped" more times by the itinerant tourist and photographer than any other object in Colorado.

SEVEN FALLS.

Seven Falls, the Pillars of Hercules and the Eagle's Nest, up the matchless South Cheyenne Canon, are sights for one day's outing. They are reached from Colorado Springs by electric car, carriage, or in a far more interesting fashion—on burro-back. No picture can begin to depict the perfect loveliness of this spot.

CRIPPLE CREEK.

A name to conjure with—a modern city that sprang, as Minerva, from the head of Jupiter, full-grown in a day. The land of gold and collossal fortunes, the richest and most wonderful mining camp in the world. The district of ten miles square, contains Victor, Goldfield, Independence, Altman, Elkton and Anaconda, and has produced $200,000,000 in gold since 1891.

A COLORADO MINING SCENE.

But for these men of brawn, their holes in the faces of the cliffs, perchance far above timberline, and the lion-hearted prospector who endured every hardship to blazon the way, Colorado would to-day be a howling wilderness, the home of the deer, the grizzly and the sneaking coyote. After the miner came the husbandman, and beautiful cities have sprung up at their magic touch.

EAGLE RIVER CANON.

Just below Leadville, the famous city above the clouds, is the beautiful canon depicted by the artist. At the top of the picture is the villiage of Gilman, hanging in the air, as it were, as the ancient Cliff Dwellers built their aerial homes, while at the bottom of the picture hundreds of feet below, is a Denver & Rio Grande passenger train climbing its tortuous way to Leadville.

MOUNT OF THE HOLY CROSS.

Centuries before the dawn of human history the elements chiseled out the huge grooves at right angles to each other that forms the sacred cross. The snows fill the great gulches and lo! the cross appears, as it is flashed upon a dark screen by an electrical appliance. Just after leaving Tennessee Pass the cross can be seen from The Denver & Rio Grande car windows.

THE PORTALES, CANON OF THE GRAND RIVER.

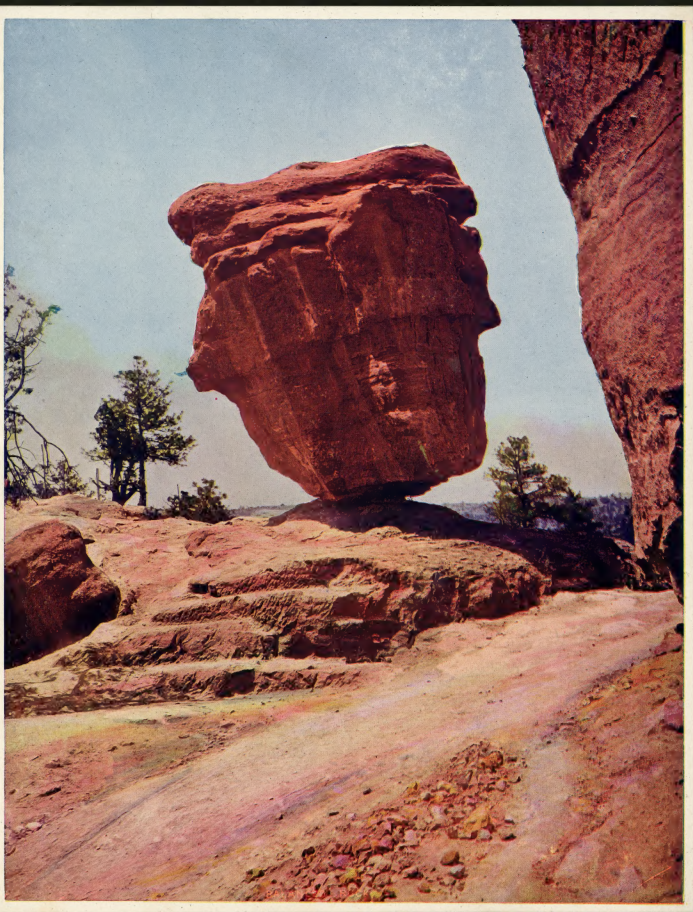
This doorway into the mountains rises over 700 feet sheer from the raging stream that plunges out of the Canon. The railway at your feet is cut through the solid granite. Of the hundreds of wonderful scenes on The Denver & Rio Grande Railway, from Denver to Salt Lake City, none surpasses the one here presented for grandeur and beauty.

(CONTINUED IN BACK OF BOOK)

SUMMIT OF PIKE'S PEAK

520. MANITOU & PIKES PEAK.

GATEWAY TO THE GARDEN OF THE GODS



SEVEN FALLS

EAGLE RIVER CANON

MT. HOLY

ECHO CLIFFS

THE ROYAL GORGE

TOLL ROAD

THE PLATTE CANON
COLORTYPE CO DENV

ECHO CLIFFS.

In the combination of ruggedness, beauty, picturesqueness and sublimity, this spot is simply matchless. Grand River and the canon swell out suddenly, forming the beautiful scene before you, as an unreal, spectacular dell of Fairy Land, and then as suddenly close again, where The Denver & Rio Grande tracks pass out in the distance. The rumble of the train and the whistle of the locomotive are carried from one cliff to another and back again, making of each a hundred echoing reproductions.

MOUNT SOPRIS.

Enshrouded in snow from timber-line to the summit, Mount Sopris presents from the sun-kissed valley before you, one of the matchless sights of grandeur seen in Colorado. The river, the highway and the little village before you but add to the pleasure of the scene. This is one of the sights to be seen from The Colorado Midland Railway.

MARSHALL PASS.

This is the back-bone of the continent, 11,000 feet above the sea, and reached by The Denver & Rio Grande Railway after climbing the steepest grade of any railroad in the world. Before you are the snow sheds of the road that are frequently hid from sight, and in the far distance are the peaks of the range, forever covered with snow. On the Western slope the train passes the foot of Mount Ouray, an extinct volcano, 14,000 feet high.

THE ROYAL GORGE.

The Royal Gorge, the mother of the Arkansas River, is a gigantic slit or canal in the Rocky Mountains, cut from the summits of the lofty peaks to the very foundation stones. At the bottom flows the river and is built The D. & R. G. railway, an engineering feat looked upon as well-nigh impossible. A span wide in places, and rising 3,000 feet perpendicular to the clouds, it presents miles of scenery equalled in few places on the globe. The swinging bridge in the foreground is suspended from immense steel supports buried in the granite walls on either side.

THE OURAY TOLL ROAD.

For six miles, between Ouray and Silverton, the highway, as seen in the picture, climbs the mountains along the very face of the cliffs, a mere niche, blasted out of the solid granite. In places it is 2,000 feet above the foaming gorge below, from which dizzy height the merest mis-step would insure the swiftest destruction. It is only wide enough in places to admit the passing of a wagon, and yet, despite the awful danger, few accidents have occurred.

THE LOOP.

The world's famous Loop, on the Colorado & Southern Railway, between Silver Plume and Georgetown. The tracks cross and re-cross themselves, as can be traced out in the picture, thus mounting higher and higher into the rocky range. Thus it is that a two hour's ride from Denver carries the tourist almost to timber-line. No visit to Denver is complete without a trip around this never-to-be-forgotten Loop.

THE HIGH BRIDGE.

This is one of the highest bridges on the Colorado & Southern Railway, less than fifty miles from Denver. It describes the arc of a circle and spans the gorge in which flows the waters of Clear Creek. In the distance is the verdure, and snow clad peaks, and below the bridge is a reservoir and the flume leading therefrom which carries the waters to Georgetown and the many mines below.

SECOND TUNNEL, CANON OF THE GRAND RIVER.

Reproduction from painting by Chas. H. Harmon.

This canon rivals in grandeur the Grand Canon of the Arkansas, begins at the junction of the Eagle and Grand Rivers and terminates at Glenwood Springs, and possesses walls which rise to a height of more than 2,500 feet. The scenery presents a bewildering succession of bright colors and strange forms. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad passes through three tunnels, this view being of the second.

INSPIRATION POINT.

Inspiration Point is only a few miles from Denver in Clear Creek Canon, on the Colorado & Southern Railway. It is here the mountains on either side come abruptly together, yet the train goes dashing heedlessly on, when lo! a sweeping turn, and the canon opens out a vista, and another, each more sublime than its fleeting fellow.

THE PLATTE CANON.

The meek and docile Platte River in Denver has little of the dash and dignity that actuates it at its source in the wild gorges of the Platte Canon. There is Denver's fishing grounds, play grounds and restful resorts. The Canon begins only 20 miles from Denver, extends 70 miles into the mountains and is traversed by the Colorado & Southern on its way to Leadville. All along are hotels and cabins, offering every possible accommodation that one could desire.

INDIAN PUEBLOS.

The artist has selected nothing more interesting than the adobe houses of a fast vanishing race, as they are seen at the Indian town of Taos, New Mexico. Their homes remind one of exaggerated mud-dauber's nests, so quaint and peculiar are they in construction. The entrance is by ladders, which can be instantly drawn up, the openings into the lower floors all being reached from the top.

A STORM IN ESTES PARK.

A storm on the ocean, or out on the broad and sandy plains, is an awe-inspiring sight; but in a mountain-bound park, where the angry elements are lashed into an uncontrolable fury by the resistance of the peaks, it is indeed an appalling scene. Mr. Leslie Skelton, of Colorado Springs, caught the inspiration of the moment when he put this picture on the canvas. It can be reached from Denver by the Burlington Railroad.

MOUNTAIN PEAKS OF COLORADO.

With their Elevations Above Sea Level.

	FEET
Blanca	14,464
Harvard	14,383
Massive	14,368
Gray's	14,341
Rosalie	14,340
Torrey	14,336
Elbert	14,326
La Plata	14,302
Lincoln	14,297
Buckskin	14,296
Wilson	14,280
Long's	14,271
Quandary	14,269
Antero	14,245
James'	14,242
Shavano	14,238
Uncompahgre	14,235
Crestones	14,233
Princeton	14,199
Mount Bross	14,185
Holy Cross	14,176
Baldy	14,176
Sneffles	14,158
Pike's Peak	14,147
Castle	14,106
Yale	14,101
San Luis	14,100
Red Cloud	14,092
Wetterhorn	14,069
Simpson	14,055
Aeolus	14,054
Ouray	14,043
Stewart	14,032
Maroon	14,000
Cameron	14,000
Handie	13,997
Capitol	13,992
Horseshoe	13,988
Snowmass	13,961
Grizzly	13,956
Pigeon	13,928
Blanc	13,905
Frustrum	13,883
Pyramid	13,895
White Rock	13,847
Hague	13,832
R. G. Pyramid	13,773
Silver Heels	13,766
Hunchback	13,755
Rowter	13,750
Homestake	13,687
Ojo	13,640
Spanish	13,620–12,720
Guyot	13,565
Trinchara	13,546
Kendall	13,542
Buffalo	13,541
Arapahoe	13,520
Dunn	13,502
Bellevue	11,000

MOUNTAIN PASSES.

	FEET
Mosquito Pass	13,700
Alpine Pass	13,550
Cottonwood Pass	13,500
Argentine Pass	13,100
Tarryall Pass	12,176
Fremont Pass	11,540
Boreas	11,470
Berthoud Pass	11,349
Ute Pass	11,200
Marshall Pass	10,852
Hayden Pass	10,780
Tennessee Pass	10,418
Grand Hotel Pass	10,248
Cochetopa Pass	10,032
Breckenridge Pass	9,490
Veta Pass	9,392
Trout Creek Pass	9,346
Poncha Pass	8,945

Seventy-two peaks between 13,500 and 14,300 feet in height are unnamed and not in this list.

The barometer on the summit of Pike's Peak stands at about seventeen inches, and water boils at 184 degrees Fahrenheit.

The first ascent of Pike's Peak was made July 14, 1819. The first woman to stand on its summit was Mrs. Jas. H. Holmes, who reached the top on August 5, 1858.

The exact length of cog road is 47,992 feet, and the average grade is 16 per cent., or 844.8 feet to the mile. The maximum grade is 25 per cent., and the sharpest curves are 16 degrees, or a curve with a radius of 359 feet.

Discovery of Peak, November 27, 1806.

CROSSING *the* CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

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